

This day I have written—letters to Doct^r. [Hugh] Williamson, Doct^r. [Nicholas] Romaine, M^{rs}. Romaine and M^r. Gadoqui,²⁵ and from the latter I give you this extract “I have seen a young man lately from Cumberland who informed me that our western settlements were much disposed to cultivate a friendly understanding with the Spanish settlements on the Mississippi, that governor Mero²⁶ had sent a letter to the civil and Military officers there, consenting to a friendly interchange of good offices, My informant was not very intelligant.—If you and the U. S. should be able to come to any amicable adjustment of our respective claims in that quarter I have some thoughts of going there for a time, and I do assure you I should take great pleasure [2] in being any way instrumental in cementing a sincere and lasting amity between our citizens and the subjects of your Sovereign.—We shall be neighbours for a long distance on that river, and if we are not friends. it will be from mistaken policy in seting out rong and time only can determine who will be to blaim.”

I have been from home but once to Warrenton and to Montforts since I returned, I have not had any letter from the North, letters rec^d. at Petersb^e informs that the King of G. Britain was on the 14th of Nov^r. from an indisposition called the breaking up of his constitution, (do you know what that is?) in a state of lunacy, and it was expected that the Prince of Wales would be appointed Regent.²⁷ We have had five days successively of rain and the breaking up seems to be a violent hail storm.

adieu

Remember the information you and your brother were to get me of the broken Merchants. [3]

3rd. of Feb^y.

I this day wrote a letter to Miss Marshall²⁸ and a long One to de La Forest,²⁹ On the Mississippi and for the name of his Son.—[This insert is in William Blount's handwriting.]

²⁵Diego de Gardoqui. See *The John Gray Blount Papers*, I, page 252n. 25.

²⁶Don Estevan Mero, governor of Orleans. It was for him that Mero District was named. Clarence Edwin Carter, *The Territorial Papers of the United States* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1936), IV, 45n. 2.

²⁷This was one of several mental lapses of George III prior to his state of total insanity in 1810.

²⁸Miss Marshall, who seems to have been a friend of Hawkins and William Blount, has not been further identified. It is possible that she was related to Judge John Marshall.

²⁹Sieur de la Forest was the resident French Consul General at New York. He was a good friend of William Blount as well as of Hawkins.